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# Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

## Report of the First Committee

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Dainius **Baublys** (Lithuania)

## I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 61/102 of 6 December 2006.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 1st meeting, on 4 October 2007, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 88 to 105, which was held at the 2nd to 8th meetings, from 8 to 11 and on 15 and 16 October (see A/C.1/62/PV.2-8). The Committee also held 12 meetings (9th to 20th), for an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials, as well as panel discussions with independent experts and follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see A/C.1/62/PV.9-20). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, also at the 9th to 20th meetings, from 17 to 19, from 22 to 26 and on 29 October (see A/C.1/62/PV.9-20). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 21st to 25th meetings, from 30 October to 2 November (see A/C.1/62/PV.21-25).

4. No documents were submitted for consideration under this item.

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## II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.37

5. At the 15th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Hungary introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/62/L.37).

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 31 October, the Secretary of the Committee made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.37.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Hungary orally revised the fifth preambular paragraph of the draft resolution by inserting the word "and" before the words "reached decisions" and deleting the words "and decided to establish an Implementation Support Unit" at the end of the paragraph.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/62/L.37, as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 9).

## III. Recommendation of the First Committee

9. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

### Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

*The General Assembly*,

*Recalling* its previous resolutions relating to the complete and effective prohibition of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and to their destruction,

*Noting with satisfaction* that there are one hundred and fifty-nine States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] including all of the permanent members of the Security Council,

*Bearing in mind* its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the implementation of the recommendations of the Review Conferences, including the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention,[2] and to provide such information and data in conformity with standardized procedure to the Secretary-General on an annual basis and no later than 15 April,

*Welcoming* the reaffirmation made in the Final Declaration of the Fourth Review Conference[3] that under all circumstances the use of bacteriological (biological) and toxin weapons and their development, production and stockpiling are effectively prohibited under article I of the Convention,

*Welcoming also* the successful outcome of the Sixth Review Conference, which adopted a Final Document[4] after a gap of ten years,[5] conducted a consensus article-by-article review of the operation of the Convention and reached decisions on the continuity of the intersessional meetings of experts and States parties,

*Recalling* the decision reached at the Sixth Review Conference to hold four annual meetings of the States parties of one week's duration each year commencing in 2007, prior to the Seventh Review Conference, which is to be held not later than the end of 2011, and to hold a one-week meeting of experts to prepare for each meeting of the States parties,[6]

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the increase in the number of States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction,[1] reaffirms the call upon all signatory States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so without delay, and calls upon those States that have not signed the

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[1] Resolution 2826 (XXVI), annex.
[2] BWC/CONF.III/23, part II.
[3] BWC/CONF.IV/9, part II.
[4] BWC/CONF.VI/6.
[5] The previous full review was conducted at the Fourth Review Conference in 1996.
[6] BWC/CONF.VI/6, part III, para. 7.

Convention to become parties thereto at an early date, thus contributing to the achievement of universal adherence to the Convention;

2. *Welcomes* the information and data provided to date, and reiterates its call upon all States parties to the Convention to participate in the exchange of information and data agreed to in the Final Declaration of the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention;[2]

3. *Takes note* of the decision of the Sixth Review Conference, taking into account the importance of providing administrative support to meetings agreed by the Review Conference as well as comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention and the exchange of confidence-building measures, to establish an Implementation Support Unit, funded by States parties, for the period from 2007-2011,[7] within the framework defined by the Review Conference;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Sixth Review Conference agreed on several measures to update the mechanism for the transmission of information in the framework of the confidence-building measures;

5. *Recalls* the decisions reached at the Sixth Review Conference,[8] and calls upon States parties to the Convention to participate in their implementation;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to render the necessary assistance to the depositary Governments of the Convention and to provide such services as may be required for the implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the Review Conferences, including all assistance to the annual meetings of the States parties and the meetings of experts;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction".

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[7] Ibid., part III, paras. 5 and 6.

[8] Ibid., part III, paras. 1 and 7.